News Notes from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
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addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

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LEVEL ONE

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Report FROM THE STUDENT MOVEMENT

When over 650 students from nearly 70 countries gather to study "The Life and Mission of the Church," it is inevitable that a great deal will happen. But the relevant question is: what? The following paragraphs are one person's impressions of the many-sided Teaching Conference of the World Student Christian Federation, held at Strasbourg, France, July 16 to 31, 1960.

The conference was truly world-wide with all of the bewildering complexity of the world of 1960 reflected in it. Many rebelled at the "cloistered atmosphere felt and reflected in many of the addresses," while at the same time every lobby and dormitory discussion tended to be in equal measure the participants' understanding of the Christian faith and his own cultural and national background and aspirations. This paradoxical experience was increasingly understood. And with this understanding the idealistic hope of a rather traumatic unifying experience - with which many delegates had come - was replaced by the realization that the Lord of history frequently uses more plodding methods. There were many Strasbourgs': the conference of the awakened African nationalist and pan-African political scientist; that of the troubled Asian, at halfway point between east and west in his thinking; that of the satisfied Scandanavian, the analyzing German; that of the Latin American reacting strongly from his minority church position at home; that of the American who went from hope to depression and back again. These add up to a conference in which dialogue was more frequently begun than ended, and indicates a potential fertile and creative period in the life of WSCF.

The delegates obtained a common language (but not view) and a common background (frequently devoid of more than fragmentary acceptance) from a series of 32 lectures. With Dr. Visser 'tHofft and Dr. D. T. Niles carrying major responsibility in a presentation of the present trends in ecumenical thought and some of the future outlook of the church, the comprehensive total was monumental. And as the two weeks came to their close, one central pervading impression of over-arching importance took shape. The delegates felt that the church must give increasingly less emphasis to its institutional life and more emphasis to the reality of its presence in the total secular world, and to the ways in which its witness can be more effective in the broad arena of society. It is a mistake to interpret the mood of the conference as anti-church, though harsh words were said of much of its institutionalism. And it is incorrect on the other hand to feel that there was a lack of appreciation of the necessity of not only corporate life but their institutional expression. Rather, there was a growing conviction that today's church is often far from relevant. And in response to this conviction, there was a second: if the church is to witness to its Lord more effectively, this concern must be so central that we are willing to make such radical adjustments as the call to witness may demand.

SALONIKA

At the meeting of the General Committee of the World Student Christian Federation held at Salonika, Greece, August 9-23, 1960, the impact of Strasbourg was felt at several levels. First, as most of the members had also been at Strasbourg, they gathered together at Salonika as firm friends. Second, the call for increased action along with deeper study was ever present. Third, again the bewildering complexity of the world of 1960 made its contribution, and the role of Africa, Asia and Latin America made its imprint upon every

action.

The result, interestingly enough, was one of genuine balance. On every hand there was the conviction that we did not know enough either about the Christian faith or the world to act as intelligently as necessary. And in every report there was the call for study, biblical and general. But the emphasis, particularly as given to the "political role", and to Christian community, reflected the impact of a concern for involvement in the secular. The term "political role" must be put in quotes, as it was so widely defined as to include the entire gauntlet of social responsibility. And the section on Christian community placed great emphasis on the rediscovery of the corporate nature of the church in its relationship to society.

Volumes could be written on each of these conferences, for the General Committee was actually a planning conference. Only two more points will be mentioned. Ecumenically, the impact and contribution of the Orthodox churches both at Strasbourg and Salonika must be mentioned. It will no doubt be reflected in many ways in the days to come. And the change in leadership of the WSCF must be noted. With deep appreciation to Mr. Philippe Maury and Dr. D. T. Niles, the positions of General Secretary and Chairman were given to Rev. Valdo Galland and Rev. Philip Potter. Mr. Bruce Rigdon, as a member at large of the Executive Committee, and the Rev. Mr. Henry Hetland, as Associate Treasurer, were the Americans voted into office at Salonika. Over 100 Americans, in various capacities, were present at Strasbourg, and 20 at the meeting at Salonika.

The second annual General Assembly of the National Student Christian Federation was held at Denver University, September 4-10, 1960. Two central considerations were shared. The first of these was the furtherance of the merger which is the Federation. While reflected in many actions, the chief steps were the decision to activate a Commission on Study and Ecumenical Strategy, and the decision to devote major attention (following the first year of joint work) to ways and means by which the NSCF can more effectively unify the work of the former United Student Christian Council, Student Volunteer Movement and Inter-seminary Committee. The second major concern of the Assembly was its concern for its own role in the student non-violent movement, not only as it relates to the sit-in's, but also as it has and is generating a more active social movement on many campuses in all parts of the country. The most specific action taken was in support of the temporary Coordinating Committee for The Student Non-Violent Movement and its lengthy statement in this area has already been released through the National Council of Churches press service.

The new officers of the National Student Christian Federation are:

James Monsonis, President
Mae Coates King, Vice-President
Ann Finkle, Secretary
The Rev. Hartland Helmich, Chairman of the Central Committee
The Rev. Claude Singleton, Treasurer
Herluf M. Jensen, General Secretary
The Rev. Douglas W. Cook, Associate General Secretary

- Fred Stoerker

INTERSEMINARY TRIENNIAL

The Interseminary Conference at Denver, September 8-12, 1960, focused on the theme, "Jesus Christ in Man's Conflicts." Tendencies toward overly theoretical treatments of the subject were soon checked, for generalities were tested against the specifics of the race question, never very far from the minds of the conferences. Dramatic presentations of Alan Paton's "Cry the Beloved Country" and living presentations by active participants in the sit-in's kept that issue vivid. As the conference unfolded, varying approaches to theological ethics were presented, not only formally by the four main platform speakers but also informally through the many opportunities provided. John Deschner began with a survey of three traditional views of the atonement and concluded with a personal constructive statement focusing

on "Jesus Christ as God's Living Word" in his solid and stimulating address. Martin J. Heinecken presented fifteen theses in defense of a position which carefully and vigorously distinguished between law and Gospel. Alexander Schmemann spoke in a refreshing and clarifying way in discussing "The Ethical Implications of Word and Sacrament." William Hamilton moved into a different sphere of theological discourse in speaking of "The Lordship of Christ Over the World," startling the participants with his emphases of God as absent, God as disturber, and Jesus as humiliated Lord.

When the organizational and financial problems of the Committee for the Interseminary Movement were presented by Director Bill Crews, the seminary students had founded the opportunity for the exchange of views sufficiently fruitful that they rallied in support of their movement. Meeting in regional groups, they planned for the improvement (or the rebirth) of interseminary work in their areas. As originally projected by the Planning Committee chaired by Robert Tobias, the conference closed with a communion service according to the rites of the Church of South India, with Bishop Michael Hollos as preacher and celebrant.

- Robert Handy

Another excellent report by Dick Eckart on the Strasbourg and Salonika Conferences is available from The Interseminary Office, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York.

CHE STAFF TRAVEL

Here are the travel plans of the staff of the Commission on Higher Education during the next few months. These, of course, are subject to change.

Douglas Cook	San Francisco, California	Dec. 4-9
	Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania	Dec. 14-17
Keith Irwin	Chicago, Illinois	Oct. 5-7
	Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri	Oct. 8-14
	Dallas, Texas	Oct. 20-21
	Los Angeles	Oct. 21-30
	Portland, Oregon	Nov. 1-5
	Topeka, Kansas	Nov. 11-12
	Gettysburg, Pennsylvania	Nov. 19
	New Haven, Connecticut	Dec. 1
Herluf Jensen	Story City, Iowa	Oct. 7-9
	Washington, D. C.	Oct. 19-20
	Casawasco, New York	Oct. 21-23
	Atlanta, Georgia	Oct. 14-16
	Stony Point, New York	Oct. 24-25
	Summit, New Jersey	Oct. 28-29
	Tuxedo Park, New York	Oct. 31-Nov. 2
	San Francisco, California	Nov. 30-Dec. 9
Graydon E. McClellan	Washington, D. C.	Nov. 4-5
	Chicago, Illinois	Nov. 11-12
	Chicago, Illinois	Nov. 17-18
	Greenwich, Connecticut	Nov. 18-19
	Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania	Dec. 14-17
Hubert C. Noble	No. Manchester, Indiana	Oct. 14
	Washington, Oregon	Nov. 28-Dec. 1
	Los Angeles, California	Dec. 2-4
	San Francisco, California	Dec. 4-9
	Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania	Dec. 14-15
	St. Louis, Missouri	Jan. 7-9
	Denver, Colorado	Jan. 9-12
	St. Louis, Missouri	Jan. 23-24
	St. Louis, Missouri	Feb. 13-16
	Chicago, Illinois	March 5-7
	Lake Geneva, Wisconsin	June 14-19

Fred Stoerker	Green Lake, Wisconsin	Oct. 3-9
	Washington, D. C.	Oct. 19-21
	Washington, D. C.	Oct. 21-23
	Tuxedo Park, New York	Nov. 1-4
	Syracuse, New York	Nov. 13
	Lisle, New York	Nov. 14-15
	Dallas, Texas	Dec. 27-31

COUNCIL OF PROTESTANT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities recently sent to the Presidents of its member institutions a pamphlet entitled, Stones Are Not For Eating. Several college Presidents wrote for additional copies for the use of their faculty or for the use of faculty committees. This pamphlet lists some of the experiments or programs of unusual nature which are now in process in relating religion to higher education. Several hundred additional copies remain and will be distributed upon request for the use of colleges which ask for them. These copies may be obtained by writing to the Executive Director, Dr. J. M. Godard, The Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities, 1818 R. Street, N.W., Washington 9, D.C.

REPORT FROM CANADA

Quoted from a letter from The Rev. Harold W. Vaughan, Board of Colleges and Secondary Schools, The United Church of Canada to Graydon E. McClellan:

"In the university field, one might say that 'education is busting out all over.' The expansion is so rapid that we gave birth to a university this past year on a denominational basis, the first one in over a century in this Country; and we have immediate plans for two more federated colleges and universities, and the strong possibility of three or four more within the next five to ten years. The question of denominational chaplains is lively and more are being appointed. Our ecumenical concerns with the S. C. M. are being safeguarded as much as possible; but we find ourselves being forced more and more into the denominational mold, much against our will in some circumstances."

The following abstracts of doctoral dissertations will appear in the forthcoming collection (Sept.-Oct., 1960) Religious Education magazine: The Emergence of a Church Sponsored College, Religious Emphasis Week: An Introduction for Student Personnel Workers, Certain Religious Attitudes and Beliefs of Students in a Lutheran College, with Reference to Their Value Structures and Personal Variables, A Study of Student Personnel Service in Six Liberal Arts Church Colleges, A Comparison of Attitudes and Values Expressed by Mennonite and Non-Mennonite College Students, A Coordinated Guidance Program for Southern Baptist Colleges, and A Study of the Pre-service and In-service Training of Full-time Teachers in Coeducational Protestant Church-Related Junior Colleges.

From the Newsletter of the Division of Higher Education of the Congregational Christian Churches comes this quote: "...in the past six months I have associated with scores of excellent people who are dedicated to causes and admirable projects, and who have the authority to make final decisions. And how seldom are those final decisions affected in any real way by others! There seems to be an implicit assumption that when one is appointed to a position of authority that God has confirmed that the person appointed is wiser than his fellows, and that God in his wisdom desires that the plans and suggestions of others be discarded in favor of those of his 'chosen instrument.' ...I have encountered this phenomenon everywhere, up and down the line from local church to national agencies; on secular boards and committees, college faculties and boards of trustees. Wherever human beings function dictatorship inevitably appears."

Enclosed is a helpful and useful copy of the new Commission on Higher Education leaflet. Additional copies may be obtained by writing this office.

Hubert C. Noble, Gen. Director